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Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday August 11, 1976

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday August 11, 1976.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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GREECE-TURKEY: Sismik Case Goes International

25X1 [] Greece yesterday took its case against Turkish seismic exploration in the Aegean to the UN Security Council; the Greek government also unilaterally submitted the dispute over the Aegean continental shelf to the International Court of Justice.

25X1 [] Greek Foreign Minister Bitsios and Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayangil will attend the Security Council meeting when it convenes later this week.

25X1 [] Greece would seek a resolution calling for an end to seismic research activities in contested areas and advising the parties to submit the issue to the International Court or to resume direct negotiations.

25X1 [] The Greeks petitioned The Hague Court for a ruling on the substance of the dispute and for a declaration of interim measures to prevent either country from seismic exploration in the contested area.

25X1 [] Caramanlis apparently hopes to impress both his foreign and domestic audience with the government's resolve to press the Greek case without resorting to hostile action against the Sismik. The head of the Greek intelligence service assured the US defense attache in Athens on Monday that Greece would not attack the Sismik but said Athens would do everything short of that to protect its claims. The attache said Greek forces are in a high state of readiness but not on full alert.

25X1 [] The Greek government could change this policy if Greece fails to get a Security Council resolution and the Court will not hear the unilateral Greek appeal. Caramanlis might then believe he must toughen his stance in order to retain domestic political support. The Court, however, may withhold a final decision until the Sismik's voyage is completed.

25X1 [] Turkey has not yet responded to the latest Greek moves, although yesterday Ankara formally rejected a Greek demarche on the activities of the Sismik.

LEBANON: Situation Report

25X1 [] The fighting in Beirut has risen again as the Christians engage in another concerted push against the Tall Zatar refugee camp.

25X1 [] The attackers at one point managed to take over a command post, although the Palestinian radio station later reported that the Christians had been driven back. The morale of the remaining defenders has reportedly been severely shaken by the fall of the nearby Muslim enclave of Nabaa.

25X1 [] There was heavy ground fighting yesterday in several of Beirut's southern suburbs, including Shuwayfat and Kfar Shima just east of Beirut international airport. []

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25X1 [] operations in this area are part of an overall strategy aimed eventually at taking over the airport or at cutting off west Beirut from the south.

25X1 [] The airport operation is less likely, given the presence there of sizable contingents of Arab League troops, including Syrians. The Christians may, however, want to get in a position to interdict the landing of any aircraft they believe to be carrying supplies for the Palestinians.

25X1 [] The Christians are apparently continuing to concentrate armored vehicles east of Beirut, possibly in preparation for an attack on the northernmost Palestinian outposts of Ayn-turah and Mutayn in the predominantly Christian central mountain area. The Christians may hope, however, that their show of force will persuade the Palestinians to withdraw from the area voluntarily.

25X1 [] On Monday, Arab League mediator Hasan Sabri al-Khuli met with representatives of the Phalanges Party and Fatah to discuss problems relating to the cease-fire, the restoration of public utilities, the deployment of Arab League forces, and--

25X1 [] a Palestinian withdrawal from the Mount Lebanon area.

25X1 [] In a later discussion with the Phalangists, Fatah chief Yasir Arafat reportedly rejected the idea of a withdrawal, arguing that the Syrians would move in if the Palestinians leave.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Al-Khuli continues to meet with representatives of various sides in a vain attempt to infuse a sense of nation into the all-but-defunct cease-fire. As days pass with no apparent result, extremists of both sides are adopting uncompromising public positions.

[REDACTED] Leftist leader Kamal Jumblatt has declared his refusal to negotiate except from a position of strength; he is demanding the total withdrawal of the Syrian army from Lebanon and an end to Syrian support of the Christians as conditions for peace.

[REDACTED] The leader of the extreme rightist Guardians of the Cedars, meanwhile, has categorically rejected any kind of understanding with the Palestinians, predicting that the remaining refugee camps in Beirut will go the way of Tall Zatar and Nabaa.

[REDACTED] A Cypriot freighter reportedly carrying arms and ammunition valued at a half million dollars for the Palestinians blew up and sank at the port of Tyre early Monday morning, apparently the result of sabotage. The freighter was probably carrying equipment being transshipped from Libya or Egypt. The Cypriots are now refusing to make any further deliveries to Tyre, although they will continue to deliver to the Christian port of Juniyah.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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SOUTH AFRICA: Concessions to Non-whites

25X1 [] South African Prime Minister Vorster has announced that next month members of existing representative bodies for "coloreds" (mulattoes) and Asians will meet regularly with government ministers to advise them on matters affecting racial groups. Such an advisory council was proposed two months ago by a special commission on colored affairs that recommended further reforms, which have not been implemented.

25X1 [] Vorster's belated token concession may have been prompted by some recent demonstrations by colored and Asian students to show sympathy for the black students who were shot by police. Vorster's first explicit comment on the latest rioting, in a press interview yesterday, stressed that further violence would not be tolerated.

25X1 [] There were no serious clashes between students and police yesterday, although small-scale demonstrations and instances of arson or stone-throwing were reported in several

black townships near Johannesburg and Pretoria. Students apparently gave up trying to stop black workers from commuting to jobs, and school attendance increased throughout the metropolitan area. [REDACTED]

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SPAIN-NATO: Membership Question

[REDACTED] //Spanish Foreign Minister Oreja stated in an interview late last week that the Suarez government has not decided whether to seek membership in NATO and probably will not deal with this issue until after the parliamentary election promised by next June. This is in contrast to the government's determination to seek early admission to the EC.//

[REDACTED] //The postponement of a policy decision on NATO enables Madrid to avoid the risk of a possible rebuff, particularly since some NATO members are still adamantly opposed to admitting Spain until convincing political liberation takes place. Deferral also avoids having to press the issue with some Spanish military officers and their political allies who have doubts about the advantages to Spain of NATO membership.//

[REDACTED] //Oreja favors Alliance membership, but apparently finds merit in taking a public position in favor of holding off at present. In his private remarks, Oreja has been more positive. He told Ambassador Stabler last month that he personally attaches great importance to the question of closer association with NATO, and believes it desirable to move forward as quickly as possible in considering how to increase Spain's association with the Alliance.//

[REDACTED] //In the meantime, US efforts to promote bilateral contacts between Spain and the most sympathetic allies as a further step toward Madrid's eventual membership in NATO have evoked a favorable response from the permanent representatives of these countries--France, West Germany, Italy, Portugal, and Belgium. The representatives noted, however, that this is their preliminary reaction and that they will report their governments' official position in September.//

[REDACTED] //Both the Italian and the German representatives suggested joint military maneuvers with Spain as a logical next step. The Belgian representative said Foreign Minister van Elsenlande would discuss a strengthening of bilateral links during his visit to Madrid this month. [REDACTED]

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USSR-US: Action on Nuclear Agreements

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[REDACTED] The Soviet Council of Ministers yesterday formally requested parliamentary approval of the US-USSR agreements to ban underground nuclear detonations above a yield of 150 kilotons, and to give each country the right to inspect the other's test sites in certain circumstances.

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[REDACTED] The documents now are to be submitted to the presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet for review. Endorsement by that body has the legal effect of ratification, although the texts are subject to subsequent approval by a plenary session of the national Supreme Soviet.

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[REDACTED] These procedures are routine, but the Soviets did not indicate a likely timetable for their parliamentary activity.

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[REDACTED]

RHODESIA-MOZAMBIQUE: Raid Against Guerrillas

[] Rhodesian government forces say they killed more than 300 Rhodesian guerrillas in a raid on a guerrilla base across the border in Mozambique on Sunday. A government statement issued in Salisbury adds that about 30 Mozambican troops were also killed.

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[] The Rhodesian raid was in retaliation for an attack on a Rhodesian army camp last week by a combined force of guerrillas and Mozambican troops. Five Rhodesian soldiers were killed in that attack--the largest number of deaths publicly acknowledged by the Rhodesians in a single engagement since the guerrilla war began in late 1972.

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CHINA: Earthquake Damage Heavy

[] The strong earthquakes (8.2 and 7.9 on the Richter scale) that struck the Tang-shan area of North China on July 28 have crippled the region's economy and impaired China's economic growth for the year.

[] Chinese seismologists have reported that on Monday six major tremors were recorded, all registering above 5 on the Richter scale in northern China. Foreigners have been warned that another strong earthquake may occur.

25X1 [] The area directly affected by the recent series of quakes extends from Peking north-northeast 90 kilometers (55 miles) to the Mi-yun Reservoir, east 270 kilometers (170 miles) to Shan-hai-kuan, and southeast 160 kilometers (100 miles) to the Ta-kang oil field near Tientsin. Tang-shan, a major industrial complex with more than 1 million inhabitants, was near the epicenter and reportedly was leveled.

25X1 [] Most industries within 100 kilometers (62 miles) of Tang-shan were affected in varying degrees. Nearly all sectors of industry are represented in this key area, which accounts for over 10 percent of China's industrial output.

25X1 [] The quake area encompasses some 250 industrial installations, including chemical and fertilizer plants, iron and steel plants, electric power plants, major cement plants, and mining complexes. Three major oil refineries are located in the area.

25X1 [] China's largest petrochemical plant, 40 kilometers (25 miles) southwest of Peking, may also have been damaged.

25X1 [] According to official reports, output was restored to pre-quake levels within two days. Ta-kang, China's third largest oil field, produces some 5 percent of total crude oil output and a considerable quantity of natural gas.

25X1 [] We still have little specific information on the extent of damage to industrial facilities, although known and likely damage to transport and communications alone will slow recovery. As Tang-shan is located astride key communication, rail, and road links, the quake doubtless has disrupted industry outside the immediately stricken area.

25X1 [] The shocks probably also cut the major oil pipeline connecting the large Ta-ching oil fields to Peking. []

CHILE: Illegal Detentions

25X1 [] //Growing evidence that Chilean security forces are responsible for recent disappearances of individuals who run afoul of the military government threatens to refuel the human rights controversy.//

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25X1 [] //The government's much publicized decrees providing safeguards for political prisoners and reforming internal security practices are apparently being circumvented by intelligence organizations. The number of detentions reported under the state of siege has declined and charges of torture have diminished, but unexplained disappearances appear to be occurring with more frequency.//

25X1 [] //The mysterious death of a Chilean who had been working for the UN in Santiago could draw bad publicity. When he was found dead in mid-July the government dismissed the death as accidental, []

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25X1 [] //Considerable publicity has already been given the expulsion last week of two leading lawyers, one of whom had reportedly taken an interest in the UN employee's death. The two were hustled out of the country on a flight to Argentina in contravention of decrees requiring warrants, identification of the arresting authority, and prompt notification of relatives.//

25X1 [] //Critics of Chilean security practices have had little new material to work with in recent months, and the convening of the OAS foreign ministers in Santiago gave the government a degree of respectability it had long been seeking. The modest reforms which made this possible are clearly breaking down. []

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